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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Cohen
Application No. 09/955,464
Filed: September 18, 2001
Attorney Docket No. 4018.016

: DECISION ON PETITIONS
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)

:

This is a decision on the renewed petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), filed May 10, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§120, 365(c) and 119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **Granted**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) and 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(i) and 1.78(a)(5)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant application was filed on September 109, 2001, and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition. A reference to the prior-filed applications has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as required by 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(iii) and 1.78(a)(5)(iii).

Additionally, the prior copending nonprovisional international application and the referenced

prior nonprovisional national applications were all filed within twelve months of the provisional applications, for which the appropriate priority is claimed. A reference to the prior-filed applications has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim for priority herein is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). See 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) and § 119(e). Accordingly, having found that the instant petition satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) and § 119(e), the petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim of benefit to the prior-filed applications is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed applications. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §120 and 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) and under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

It should be noted that it is applicant's responsibility to ensure that the appropriate priority claim(s) in each prior non provisional application is made in each prior non provisional application as merely making the correct priority claim in this application does not operate to correct any omissions in the prior claim(s) for each application in the chain. See MPEP 201.11. For example, USPTO continuity records fail to reflect that application No. 09/280,483 claimed benefit under 35 USC 119(e) of 60/079,884. Any priority claim error(s) in a pre AIPA filed patent may be corrected by way of a Certificate of Correction, see MPEP 1481; any priority claim error(s) in a pre AIPA abandoned application may be corrected by way of petition under 37 CFR 1.182.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed applications, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (703) 305-1820..

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center Art Unit 3624 for appropriate action on the amendment submitted September 4, 2003, including consideration by the examiner of the

claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 365(c) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) for the benefit of the prior-filed applications, and for consideration of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5) for the benefit of the prior-filed provisional application.



Brian Hearn
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

ATTACHMENT : Corrected Filing Receipt